

REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a notice of allowance in the above-referenced patent application. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit the foregoing amendment and request entry thereof pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. Upon review of the allowed claims and the prosecution history of the instant application, it was determined that previously restricted claim 25 is eligible for rejoinder pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a) as the generic linking claim 23 was allowed.

The applicants' representative telephoned the Examiner on January 15, 2007 to request the rejoinder of claim 25. The Examiner indicated the claim would be rejoined, but requested submission of a written request. Accordingly, the applicants are submitting this paper.

By way of background, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement in the instant application on November 30, 2006, requiring the applicants to elect one of two species set forth in claims 24 and 25 for examination. In compliance with this requirement, the applicants elected the species of claim 24 for examination in a response dated January 4, 2007, indicating that claims 1-23 were generic to both species and requesting that all species be examined together.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that claim 25 be rejoined pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a) and allowed on the merits. To facilitate such rejoinder, the applicants present previous claim 25 as new claim 51 for submission herewith. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance indicating that claims 1-24 and 45-51 are allowed. If a telephone conversation would help expedite this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the

telephone number set forth below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund any overpayment and charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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